



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING
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Delegation of Nursing Tasks to Dialysis Technicians ARSD 20:48:04.02

20:48:04.02:01. Definition of dialysis technician. A dialysis technician is an individual who is not licensed as a nurse under SDCL 36-9 but is trained to assist a nurse in outpatient hemodialysis units with the provision of basic clinical and technical tasks in the care of clients with end stage renal disease as delegated by the nurse and authorized by this chapter.

20:48:04.02:02. Definition of end stage renal disease. End stage renal disease is the stage of renal impairment that appears to be irreversible, permanent, and requires a regular course of dialysis or kidney transplantation to maintain life.

20:48:04.02:03. Additional functions performed by licensed practical nurse (LPN) in kidney dialysis. Nothing in this chapter may be construed to affect the practice of the LPN performing additional specialized nursing functions in kidney dialysis pursuant to §20:48:04.02.03.

20:48:04.02:04. Training required for dialysis technician. A licensed nurse may delegate select tasks of hemodialysis authorized under this chapter to a dialysis technician who has a minimum of a high school education or equivalent and has completed training outlined in §20:48:04.02:09.

20:48:04.02:05. Nursing tasks that may be delegated to dialysis technician. The following may be delegated to a dialysis technician, if delegation is in compliance with the criteria for delegation and supervision set forth in [20:48:04.01:01](#) and [20:48:04.01:02](#) (below)

20:48:04.01:01. General criteria for delegation. The registered nurse (RN) is responsible for the nature and quality of nursing care that a client receives under the nurse's direction. To achieve full utilization of the services of an RN or LPN, the licensed nurse may delegate selected nursing tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP). The UAP may complement the licensed nurse in the performance of nursing functions but may not substitute for the nurse. The UAP may not redelegate a delegated act.

A licensed nurse is accountable to practice in accordance with the scope of practice as defined in [SDCL Chapter 36-9](#). The delegating nurse is accountable for assessing a situation and making the final decision to delegate. The delegation of nursing tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel must comply with these criteria:

1. The nursing task is one that a reasonable and prudent licensed nurse would find within the scope of sound nursing judgment to delegate
2. The nursing task is one that, in the opinion of the delegating licensed nurse, can be properly and safely performed by unlicensed assistive personnel without jeopardizing the client's welfare
3. The nursing task does not require unlicensed assistive personnel to exercise nursing judgment
4. The licensed nurse evaluates the client's nursing care needs before delegating the nursing task
5. The licensed nurse verifies that the unlicensed person is competent to perform the nursing task
6. The licensed nurse supervises performance of the delegated task in accordance with [§20:48:04.01:02](#).

20:48:04.01:02. Supervision. The licensed nurse shall provide supervision of all nursing tasks delegated to unlicensed assistive personnel in accordance with the following conditions:

1. The licensed nurse determines the degree of supervision required after considering the following:
 - a. The stability of the client's condition
 - b. The competency of the unlicensed person to whom the nursing task is delegated
 - c. The nature of the nursing task being delegated

- d. The proximity and availability of the licensed nurse to the unlicensed person when the nursing task will be performed
 2. The delegating nurse or another licensed nurse is readily available in person or by telecommunication
 3. If the unlicensed person is providing care in the client's home, the time interval between supervisory visits and whether the visit is conducted in person or via telecommunication is determined by the licensed nurse in accordance with [20:48:04.01:01](#), and shall occur no less than once every 60 days to assure client safety.
- ... and a licensed nurse is physically present in the dialysis unit:

1. Assemble any necessary supplies at the bedside
2. Rinse and prime dialyzer and attach and install all required tubing according to dialysis prescription and unit protocol; test and set monitors and alarms according to unit protocol
3. Obtain pre-dialysis vital signs, weight, and temperature and inform the RN of abnormal/unusual findings
4. Inspect access site and report condition to registered nurse
5. Perform venipuncture to initiate dialysis including the administration of local anesthetics by the intradermal, subcutaneous, or topical routes
6. Obtain blood samples and blood cultures from peripheral blood lines, access site, or graft
7. Administer loading and maintenance doses of heparin according to prescribed protocol; may perform clotting times and shall report results to the registered nurse
8. Measure and adjust blood flow rates according to prescribed protocol
9. Calculate, determine, and adjust fluid removal rates according to prescribed protocol
10. Monitor and record dialysis treatment parameters and make treatment adjustments including dialysis equipment settings, client positioning, and the administration of normal and hypertonic saline, as directed by the registered nurse; report all changes to the registered nurse
11. Monitor equipment for safe and proper functioning, respond to alarms, and make appropriate adjustments
12. Initiate cardiopulmonary resuscitation measures in the event of a cardiac and/or pulmonary emergency; respond to dialysis-related emergencies immediately seeking assistance from the registered nurse
13. Discontinue dialysis and establish hemostasis upon direction of the registered nurse
14. Inspect, clean, and dress access according to unit protocol, reporting any unusual finding or occurrence to the RN
15. Discard dialysis supplies and sanitize equipment.

[20:48:04.02:06](#). **Nursing tasks that may not be delegated to dialysis technician.** The following are nursing tasks that may not be delegated to a dialysis technician:

1. Initiation or termination of dialysis via a central catheter
2. Administration of intravenous medications, other than normal saline, hypertonic saline, or heparin, which may only be administered in the course of a routine hemodialysis treatment; the administration of medications by the oral, topical, or rectal route may be delegated only in accordance with §§ [20:48:04.01:09](#) to [20:48:04.01:13](#), inclusive
3. Administration of blood or blood products
4. Acceptance of physician orders

[20:48:04.02:07](#). **Approval of training program required for delegated nursing dialysis tasks.** Selected tasks of hemodialysis therapy may be delegated only to a dialysis technician who has successfully completed a training program approved by the Board pursuant to § [20:48:04.02:08](#). Approval of the training program must be renewed every two years.